

Message Text

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SUBJ: SOUTH PACIFIC LABOUR MINISTERS CONFERENCE: FINAL DAY,
NOV. 1

1. HAVING ACCOMPLISHED AGENDA IN TWO DAYS PRECEDING, CONFEREES MET IN MORNING NOV. 1 TO CONSIDER DRAFT COMMUNIQUE, PREPARED OVERNIGHT BY SECRETARIAT. MIN. LABOUR CLYDE CAMERON PRESIDED THROUGHOUT WITH GOOD GRACE AND HUMOUR, AND (FOR HIM) GREAT PATIENCE.
2. AFTER LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE CHANCE BUT MUCH LANGUAGE CORRECTION, NINETEEN PARAGRAPHS EMERGED WHICH REFLECT STRENGTH OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, AND WISTFUL DESIRES SMALLER COUNTRIES TO INCREASE STATURE IN NEW RELATIONSHIP.
3. TO NO ONES SURPRISE, BUT AFTER AN HOUR OF VERBAL MAZURKA, NEW ZEALAND HAS AGREED TO HOST NEXT MEETING OF CONFERENCE, PROBABLY IN LATE 1974. NO SERIOUS ALTERNATIVE WAS DISCUSSED, THOUGH PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND FIJI MADE TENTATIVE NOISES.

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4. SOME SEMBLANCE OF NEO-ORGANIZATION WAS ESTABLISHED

WHEN AUSTRALIAN AGREED TO ACT AS CLEARING HOUSE FOR LABOR STATISTICS AND OTHER INFORMATION. OFFER BY SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION TO DO JOB WAS POLITELY REFUSED, REFLECTING ISLANDERS PRIVATELY EXPRESSED OPINION THAT MIN. LABOUR CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE SUBMERGED IN EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS.

5. CONFEREES AGREED TO CONDUCT TRAINING FOR LABOR ADMINISTRATORS. AGAIN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ASSUMED MAJOR BURDEN, ALTHOUGH TRAINING STAFF WILL BE RECRUITED ALSO "ELSEWHERE".

6. COMPLETE TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE WITH EXPANDED COMMENT BEING AIR POUCHED.

7. COMMENT: AUSTRALIANS ARE ENTITLED TO THINK THAT CONFERENCE WAS SUCCESSFUL. DELEGATES, INCLUDING THOSE FROM THREE AREAS OF AMERICAN INTEREST (GUAM, SAMOA, TTPI), APPRECIATED VERY MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH ONE ANOTHER ON SPECIALIZED AGENDA. BY CONFERENCE END, EARLIER PUZZLEMENT ABOUT GOA MOTIVATION SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED WITH CONSENSUS THAT MOTIVATION WAS MORE POLITICAL THAN CHARITABLE. EXTENSION OF GOA AREA OF INFLUENCE REGARDED AS INEVITABLE, AND IRRESISTIBLE IN ANY EVENT.
GREEN

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